

DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE
Security Committee

SECOM-D-547

4 JUN 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR: Members, DCI Security Committee

FROM:

Executive Secretary

25X1

SUBJECT: Proposed Single Agency Guide
for Classification of TOP SECRET
National Foreign Intelligence

1. It has been recommended that the DCI Security Committee review the attached proposed criteria as a possible uniform Intelligence Community guide for TOP SECRET Classification of National Foreign Intelligence.

2. Members are requested to coordinate within their respective Departments and Agencies only as they deem appropriate to obtain a sense of the position their agency may take should the attached be formally proposed.

3. Please be prepared to discuss this issue at the July meeting.

Attachment

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Regraded UNCLASSIFIED When
Separated From Attachment

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29 May 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Robert W. Gambino
Director of Security

FROM :
Special Assistant to the DCI

SUBJECT : Security Task Force Recommendation 13--Revisited

1. During our earlier deliberations, it was agreed that the Ad Hoc Task Force's proposed implementation of Recommendation 13 be coordinated within the Agency with a view to its adoption as the single Agency guide for TOP SECRET classification. (U)

2. This coordination has now been completed and the amended statement is attached herewith. I believe my panel has responded adequately to the changes requested by Agency components, with one exception. This exception was a request from the Office of Security that safe or lock combinations be classified TOP SECRET. My panel was hard put to buy this recommendation. We fail to see how it meets the test of "exceptionally grave damage." We also noted the requester's comments that although these combinations would be classified TOP SECRET, they would not be placed under the formal system for TOP SECRET control.

3. I recommend that the Agency go ahead and issue these criteria without waiting for all of the other Security Task Force recommendations regarding information handling to be staffed out. I also recommend that the criteria be forwarded to the DCI Security Committee to staff their review and acceptance as a uniform Intelligence Community guide for TOP SECRET classification. (U)

Attachment

SECRET

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Criteria for TOP SECRET Classification

I. DEFINITION

Executive Order 12065 uses the following definition to justify TOP SECRET classification:

"TOP SECRET" shall be applied only to information the unauthorized disclosure of which reasonably could be expected to cause exceptionally grave damage to the national security.

In compliance with the injunction to use the least restrictive designations possible, TOP SECRET classification within CIA will be carefully restricted to the subject areas listed below.

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